Idaho Has Adopted the 2014 National Electrical Code

By Mick Williams, Electrical Program Manager

The Idaho Legislature, in its 2014 session, officially adopted the 2014 National Electrical Code (NEC). The new NEC becomes effective July 1st, 2014. However, The Division of Building Safety (DBS) intends to work closely with contractors and their employees through the end of 2014 to help them understand and implement changes in the code. Full enforcement of the 2014 National Electrical Code by DBS inspectors will begin January 1st, 2015.

The changes to the 2014 NEC listed below were included by the state of Idaho in the adoption process. These are changes only, and must be employed within the context of the remaining adopted code sections, many of which are unchanged from earlier editions of the Code.

Also, please remember that many cities and counties in Idaho have adopted rules and regulations that supersede those enforced by the State of Idaho. It is the contractor or tradesman's responsibility, when working in a local jurisdiction, to know the specific requirements of that jurisdiction.

Idaho Changes to the 2014 National Electrical Code

011. ADOPTION AND INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE OF THE NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE, 2014 EDITION.

01. Documents. Under the provisions of Section 54-1001, Idaho Code, the National Electrical Code, 2014 Edition, (herein NEC) is hereby adopted and incorporated by reference for the state of Idaho and shall be in full force and effect on and after July 1, 2014, with the exception of the following amendments:

a. Article 210.8(A)(7) Sinks. Delete article 210.8(A)(7) and replace with the following: Sinks located in areas other than kitchens where receptacles are installed within one and eight tenths (1.8) meters (six (6) feet) of the outside edge of the sink.

b. Article 210.8(A)(10). Delete article 210.8(A)(10).

c. Article 210.8(D). Delete article 210.8(D).

d. Article 210.52(E)(3). Delete article 210.52(E)(3) and replace with the following: Balconies, Decks, and Porches. Balconies, decks, and porches having an overall area of twenty (20) square feet or more that are accessible from inside the dwelling unit shall have at least one (1) receptacle outlet installed within the perimeter of the balcony, deck, or porch. The receptacle shall not be located more than two (2.0) meters (six and one half (6½) feet) above the balcony, deck, or porch surface.

e. Where the height of a crawl space does not exceed one point and four tenths (1.4) meters or four point five and one half (4.5) feet it shall be permissible to secure NM cables, that run at

angles with joist, to the bottom edge of joist. NM cables that run within two point and one tenth (2.1) meters or seven (7) feet of crawl space access shall comply with Article 320.23.

f. Article 675.8(B). Compliance with Article 675.8(B) will include the additional requirement that a disconnecting means always be provided at the point of service from the utility no matter where the disconnecting means for the machine is located.

g. Article 550.32(B). Compliance with Article 550.32(B) shall limit installation of a service on a manufactured home to those homes manufactured after January 1, 1992.

h. Poles used as lighting standards that are forty (40) feet or less in nominal height and that support no more than four (4) luminaires operating at a nominal voltage of three hundred (300) volts or less, shall not be considered to constitute a structure as that term is defined by the National Electrical Code (NEC). The disconnecting means shall not be mounted to the pole. The disconnecting means may be permitted elsewhere in accordance with NEC, Article 225.32, exception 3. SEC special purpose fuseable connectors (model SEC 1791–DF or model SEC 1791-SF) or equivalent shall be installed in a listed handhole (underground) enclosure. The enclosure shall be appropriately grounded and bonded per the requirements of the NEC applicable to Article 230-Services. Overcurrent protection shall be provided by a (fast-acting – minimum - 100K RMS Amps 600 VAC) rated fuse. Wiring within the pole for the luminaires shall be protected by supplementary overcurrent device (time-delay – minimum - 10K RMS Amps 600 VAC) in break-a-away fuse holder accessible from the hand hole. Any poles supporting or incorporating utilization equipment or exceeding the prescribed number of luminaires, or in excess of forty (40) feet, shall be considered structures, and an appropriate service disconnecting means shall be required per the NEC. All luminaire-supporting poles shall be appropriately grounded and bonded per the NEC.

i. Compliance with Article 210.12 Arc-Fault Circuit-Interrupter Protection.

1. Definition. Arc-Fault Circuit-Interrupter is a device intended to provide protection from the effects of arc faults by recognizing characteristics unique to arcing and by functioning to de-energize the circuit when an arc fault is detected.

2. Dwelling Unit Bedrooms. All one hundred twenty (120)-volt, single phase, fifteen (15)-ampere and twenty (20)-ampere branch circuits supplying outlets installed in dwelling unit bedrooms shall be protected by a listed arc-fault circuit interrupter, combination type installed to provide protection of the branch circuit.

If, after examining the above NEC changes, you have questions, please feel free to contact the Division of Building Safety at 1 800 955-3044.